

# Customs Modernization

## March 2001 Status Update for Oversight Organizations

### Modernization at-a-Glance

#### Another step forward:

Customs Modernization Office proudly announces its new logo. Keep your eyes open for the new logo as an identifier for modernization news and updates.



**Customs Modernization:  
New World, New Tools**

#### We want to hear from you:

Have a question regarding Customs Modernization? Want to share important information with the Executive Director of the Customs Modernization Office? Talk to members of the modernization team by contacting us at:  
[cmo@customs.treas.gov](mailto:cmo@customs.treas.gov)

#### Timeline

- Apr. 25, 2001: Contract award
- July 2001: Requirements development begins

### ACS Celebrates 17 Years of Service

On February 1, ACS celebrated its 17th birthday. This once state-of-the-art system has served the Customs service and trade community well.

In the early 1980s, the need for a stand-alone automated system was significant. Then Commissioner von Raab knew the only way to keep ahead of the increase in trade was through electronic processing.

ACS introduced automation to the trade in 1984. The first release operated as a revenue collection system, and has since grown considerably to support Customs mission-critical services such as facilitation and enforcement.

Making way for the future ACS paved the way into the paperless environment for Customs.

“Those of us who were involved in the design and development of ACS are proud of this highly successful cornerstone of Customs automation,” said one of ACS founding fathers, John

Durant, Director, Commercial Rulings Division.

Although ACS was a breakthrough in import automation, technology advances and legislative mandates force Customs to move to a more integrated approach. In the not-too-distant future, ACS will pass the torch to the new automated trade system, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

“One thing we do know is that we must be more efficient in how we approach our expanding workload in the complex, global trading environment.”

— Charles W. Winwood, Acting  
Commissioner, U.S. Customs Service

The first piece of ACS encouraged the trade community to use computers, while ACE will enable the trade community to emerge in the newest of technological advances. ACS opened the door to automated processing. ACE will use technological opportunities to further streamline import processing.

#### Did you know:

ACS's workload has increased 20-fold since its inception in 1984.

— John Hill, Chief of the Trade  
Systems Branch, Office of Information  
and Technology

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